

**MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (GOCI)
MARYLAND COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (MCIA)**

MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETING: October 5, 2009

**Dorchester Center for the Performing Arts
321 High Street
Cambridge, Maryland
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.**

Present: Chairwoman Auriel Fenwick, Vice Chair Thomas Windsor, II, Kathryn E. Robbins Fitzhugh, Wanda Lee, Guy Wells

Absent: Virginia Busby, Cornelius Allen Red Deer

Staff Present: Susan Driscoll, Agnes M. Smith

- I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** Commissioner/Chair Auriel Fenwick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. INVOCATION:** Chief Rudy Laughing Otter Hall
- III. AGENDA REVISION:** The agenda was revised by Chair Fenwick and set by Vice Chair Thomas W. Windsor II.
- IV. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes by Chair Auriel Fenwick
Minutes were unanimously approved by Commission with corrections.
- V. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** Administrator Keith Colston first of all thanked Ms. Vicky Love and the Dorchester Center for the Performing Arts for allowing us to be here and looking forward to some future partnerships. Administrator Colston spoke about the different meetings and events he attended. He extended an invitation for the Baltimore American Indian Center Pow-Wow meetings. They always welcome leadership. He also commented on the 17th Annual Native American Festival Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians event. He noted that this was a great event, well attended and there was a very good atmosphere. Administrator Colston spoke about the MOTA Grant which funds the Health Fair Pow-Wow which is scheduled for Saturday, November 28, 2009 the day after American Indian Heritage Day in Montgomery County. He spoke about meetings to discuss planning and activities for American Indian Heritage Month and American Indian Heritage Day. Administrator Colston had meetings to discuss the petition process and possible steps concerning Piscataway Indian Nation (PIN) and the Piscataway Conoy Tribe (PCT) which was led by Phillip Deters. Administrator Colston let the Commission know that Mr. Deters is on loan to MCIA to take care of the issues at hand. Administrator Colston spoke about attending the 2009 Maryland Hispanic Awards Luncheon at the 2009 Maryland Hispanic Business Conference. Administrator Colston informed the Commission that he's mentioning this because economic development and minority business is surely an issue with the Indian community. He noted that a lot of the

issues are because of the recognition process. He said that the Indian community has various businesses that are self-identified as being Native American/American Indian. This is something that should be looked into. He feels that this is a vehicle and represents something that the Indian community should look towards.

Chair Fenwick asked Administrator Colston about the Maryland Hispanic Business Conference as to whether it would be something to do for the Native American community or the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs. Administrator Colston thinks that this is an event to be used for mentoring. He noted that MCIA could start off small and increase yearly. He noted that we should utilize the knowledge of the other commissions. He also spoke about this being a pro-active event. You can have all the help needed but bodies are needed to support the event.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPATRIATION:

The next public open session meeting will be on Saturday, October 24, 2009 in Howard County. Details will be forthcoming.

Administrator Colston read Commissioner Virginia Busby's e-mail. She gave the report for the meeting held on October 3, 2009. It was noted that one person represented the Accohannock and made official comments. There were about ten people total. The Accohannock comments were basically supporting the comments that MCIA members have expressed in the working group--they do not want the remains dug up again after they are placed in the ground and then they also added that for future discoveries, they are not against basic determinations of forensic specialists but then they want the remains placed back in the ground as close to possible as their original provenance.

VII. RECURRING BUSINESS: Chair Fenwick spoke about American Indian Heritage Day planning. She spoke on the phone with Commissioner Cornelius Allen Red Deer and he wanted to recommend that the armed forces be honored at the dinner.

Development Coordinator Susan Driscoll noted that this would be easy for her and Outreach Director Tony White, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives to do. She said that he also wanted to include law enforcement.

Administrator Colston requested that any ideas or suggestions be cc'd on or phone call made instead of being surprised as far as the office is concerned. Chair Fenwick noted that she just spoke to him on the phone this evening and she brought it up for discussion because it was an idea he had for the executive session and she wanted to see if anyone had any suggestions or comments.

Vice Chair Windsor asked if there would be a limitation on the amount of people at the location. Development Coordinator Driscoll noted that the dinner will be held at the Miller Senate Office Building which holds two hundred people and it is by invitation only from the Governor. This number includes staff and performers.

Commissioner Guy Wells said that he appreciate the concern to recognize our fellow members of the law enforcement but is it the Native Americans? He was also concerned with squeezing this in with what is already on the program.

Development Coordinator Driscoll noted that it would be to honor Native American employees, State or federal. To add this to the program would not be a hardship.

Administrator Colston wants Commissioner Red Deer to clarify what he is asking the Commission to vote on. He suggested having a Native American Color Guard who could bring in the flags and staff which has been done at several other dinners and galas. This would be a great way to honor the military aspect and also at the same time honor those who are indigenous to Maryland.

Vice Chair Windsor spoke about a previous comment that mentioned keeping small and grow each year. American Indian Heritage Day is still new. This is only the second year. He suggested keeping it in-house before branching out. He noted that trying to reach out to different agencies of Native Americans is great but not at this time.

Commissioner Kathryn E. Robbins Fitzhugh agreed with Vice Chair Windsor to take it slow and branch out to a larger venue later.

Commissioner Wanda Lee noted that the Commission needs to start writing now for next year if contributions are needed. The ideal needs to be implanted now in order to branch out to invite more people. Also, notification needs to go out letting them know this is a yearly event for the Indian community especially since other events are going on around this time.

Development Coordinator Driscoll spoke about the offer from the Hyatt. Although they were generous in their offer, it was still more than the Commission or the State could afford. She mentioned that if the Commission wanted to raise funds to offset the cost of future, that's possible. She noted that the Commission can accept sponsorships.

There was a discussion about having the Native American Color Guard present this year at the American Indian Heritage Day. Administrator Colston felt having the Native American Color Guard present would cover any issues of the military being overlooked. He noted that there is no way they could be able to celebrate without what the military is doing and have done for the society.

Commissioner Guy Wells suggested that if the Color Guard comes that besides the regular that there be prayer and recognition for all those who are serving in the armed forces and law enforcement. Commissioner Wells will be coordinating the Color Guard.

Chief Sewell E. Winterhawk Fitzhugh informed the Commission that he has the whole set of flags.

The Commission unanimously agreed to have the Native American Color Guard present at the American Indian Heritage Day Celebration with representation of as many indigenous people possible. During this celebration there will be prayer for the armed forces and law enforcement.

There was a discussion about the caterer and entertainment for American Indian Heritage Day. The Commission unanimously agreed to have a different caterer. Also Joanne Shenandoah is available but unfortunately funds are not available. It was suggested that the Commission reach out to the Native American community and see if anyone has talent. This would reduce the expenses and is a great opportunity to give a Native American a three minute spotlight of glory. Chair Fenwick noted that asking for funds during this economic time could be hard, so this is a good alternative. It was also noted that Native American Violinist Ron Warren will be in attendance.

There was a discussion about seeking community entertainment. Numerous community members along with the Commission will be seeking out talent at churches.

Administrator Colston informed the Commission that on Monday, November 2, 2009 there will be a kick-off for American Indian Heritage Month held at 201 W. Preston Street, Lobby from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Lt. Governor Anthony Brown has been invited, speakers, cultural presentations done by Indigenous people, cultural food, booths, etc. Also the Pow-Wow Health Fair will be held on Saturday, November 28, 2009 in Montgomery County at Holy Cross Hospital from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Administrator Colston said that the turnout for the health screening has been great since they utilize the cultural for them. Some of the same people have been screened in six month intervals which allow data to be collected and supports more funding.

Administrator Colston wants to specify that the last Friday in November is American Indian Heritage Day which is a State holiday. He wants the communities to express this to everybody.

It was noted that Commissioner Cornelius Allen Red Deer has been asked to serve on the Census 2010 Committee. Vice Chair Windsor noted that previously when the Census Bureau came and spoke that it was made straight that everyone know to please make sure you get your people out to participate in the 2010 Census.

Chief Fitzhugh informed the Commission that information for the Census is being disseminated and letters will be going out as well. He also noted that there are issues that are not being handled such as people putting down Native American and it is being crossed out. He noted MVA is requesting a copy of enrollment form before putting on license.

Development Coordinator Driscoll informed the Commission that GOCI, MDP and Secretary of State Office will be coordinating Census 2010. For several months weekly planning meetings have been attended and each of the Commissions has been asked for a Complete Count Committee. Commissioner Red Deer attended training last week and knows what will be suspected. He will address the Commission and put some information on the website. His plan is to notify people in the community about job opportunities, make sure that participate in Census and that issues get addressed such as what Chief Fitzhugh mentioned so that there is no paper genocide next year. It is important that everybody be counted.

Sherry Majors, representative for Chief Hall informed the Commission that for Census 2010 they will be distributing flyers, going door to door, mailings, outreach program at local churches, office staff will be on internet, etc.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD THE COMAR DOCUMENT: Vice Chair Windsor

SECONDED MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD THE COMAR DOCUMENT: Commissioner Fitzhugh

COMAR Document were unanimously approved by Commission.

Administrator Colston informed the Commission that Phil Deters will be on loan to the Commission until the PCT and PIN petition has been rectified.

STATIC PLAN: Add business conference to static plan since it is stretched out over a four year period. Vice Chair Windsor also noted that Native American Heritage Day should be stretched out over a four year period also. Commissioner Lee suggested maybe having a Native American concert in the future for Native American Heritage Day. This document will be reviewed at a later date by Commission.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Various announcements were made of the different pow-wows, festivals and dinners for the weekend of October 17.

Administrator Colston reminded community members to submit talking points that would be very helpful for the different events. The MCIA would love to be able to share information that is specific to the Indigenous groups in Maryland. He also reminded them to submit their calendars early.

Ida Kleiniche suggested that there be a fundraiser for Native American Heritage Day which can include the Indian logo on a t-shirt, jackets, pens, etc. that can go for the entertainment for next year.

Debra Henry noted that she spoke to Clacie Hubbard, Salisbury University and she want to do something with the Commission in the month of November. She told her about American Indian Heritage Day and that it is a State holiday. She also noted that she went to Greensboro Library and they had the Sam Hill collection of artifacts that they will be turning over to Maryland Trust. It is 171 pieces of artifacts found at Marshall Hope. Chief Fitzhugh informed the Commission that if this is the same collection it came out of the Bound and Sandy Hill.

Vice Chair Windsor asked if anyone had knowledge about the new archeological digs at two sites this year which includes a huge village on the Eastern Shore and Western Shore.

Carol Ebright, Maryland State Highway Administration spoke about an excavation being undertaken near the Dover Bridge on Maryland 331 which is a little bit east of Easton. There were a number of rumors about that site that SHA was excavating a prehistoric Indian village. It is in fact a Colonial tavern site from the 17th Century.

Chief Fitzhugh noted that another site was found near the Tuckaho Bridge and there were remains. The remains have been left where they are and protected thanks to the Landover and Highway Department.

It was noted that the community can look at MCIA's website:
www.americanindian.maryland.gov

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING: Commissioner Kathryn E. Robbins Fitzhugh

SECONDED MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING: Commissioner Guy Wells

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.